

**COALITION OF  
CALIFORNIA  
WELFARE RIGHTS  
ORGANIZATIONS, INC.**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE  
CALIFORNIA PERFORMANCE  
REVIEW COMMISSION**

**AUGUST 20, 2004  
SAN DIEGO, CA**

**BY**

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## **HHA 01- Transform Eligibility Processing**

We believe that State Administration is effective and efficient for clients. We also believe that customers of these services should have a choice of where they get their services from – county government or a nonprofit agency. Any nonprofit organization should be paid to process an application at the same payment rate that is costing the State.

We also believe that services at the local level still has to be available to address such issues as homeless assistance, immediate need, expedited food stamps and other emergency services,

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE** - General Assistance is also a benefit program that's has not been included in the realignment. We are sure this is an oversight and we hope that this can be corrected.

## **HHS 10 - Align State Law Regarding the \$50 Child Support Disregard Payments**

Child support received by CalWORKs recipients means "state support" and not "child support" when it comes to what happens with the money of the non-custodial, who also pays taxes for the CalWORKs program. Under the current program the only benefit a CalWORKs receiving child gets from child support is \$50 and to take that away from the mouth of a child who lives on a fixed income at the 1989 level is immoral.

CCWRO would suggest the Child Support program - a program for children - be modified to give the CalWORKs family the states' share of the child support collected. This way the custodial taxpaying parents, who are already paying taxes to cover the CalWORKs program will see their children realize an actual benefit from the child support they pay, rather than being double taxed.

## **HHS 31- Medi - Cal Fraud Targeting Misses Mark**

We all oppose fraud. But the Medi-Cal program is not set up to give consumers the power to identify fraud and receive a benefit from identifying and recovering fraudulent payments by providers.

**A SIMPLE PROPOSAL:** Require DHS or its successor to send a copy of the bill to the patient just employers are asked whether or not a employee should get unemployment insurance benefits. If the patient identifies a false charge and prevails, then the patient should get a 20% bounty just like the False Claims Act.

## **COMMENT ABOUT WORK PROGRAMS**

The Commission report states that all work programs should be realigned, but this realignment excludes CalWORKs recipients.

We are not sure why CalWORKs recipients were excluded from receiving employment and training benefits that all other persons living in California should receive.

Currently CalWORKs recipients are receiving employment and training services from eligibility workers.

If a person has a brain tumor they do not go and see a lawyer, they see a doctor. CalWORKs recipients are seeing a welfare worker rather than an employment and training counselor.

According to the DSS WtW 25 reports, during the month of May, 2004, there were 122,885 unduplicated participants in the CalWORKs Welfare to Work (WtW) program.

The WtW program's goal is make participants self-sufficient. Thus, the test of the program should be how many participants became self-sufficient. To become self-sufficient, one must receive employment services and not eligibility services. Those who do not participate are sanctioned and their benefits are reduced - an eligibility function.

During May 2004, 56,858 participants were sanctioned, while only 5,149 participants found employment that resulted in termination of CalWORKs benefits.

46% - Sanctions

4% - Obtained Employment that Resulted in Termination of CalWORKs

Welfare workers are effective in imposing sanctions because that is what their job is. They are not effective in getting job that makes participants self-sufficient.

For every one person who finds employment that results in termination of CalWORKs 10 participants are sanctioned.

**WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE CALWORKS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM BE REALIGNED WITH THE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS OF CALIFORNIA**

Respectfully Submitted,



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